



**AMHERST COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING**



MINUTES

August 19, 2021

Administrative Office Complex
153 Washington Street
Public Meeting Room
Meeting Convened - 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Bryant (Chair), Catherine Gamble (Vice Chair), Jim Thompson, Derin Foor & Michael Martineau

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beverly Jones, David Pugh (Board of Supervisors Liaison-Non Voting)

STAFF PRESENT: Jeremy Bryant (Director of Community Development), Tyler Creasy (Assistant Zoning Administrator), Stacey Stinnett (Administrative Assistant)

Chairman Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion made by: Martineau

Second: Gamble

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

3. Citizens Comments

There were none.

4. Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor Charter Change

A. Charter Document

Mr. J. Bryant briefly explained that the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee is a sub-committee of the Planning Commission and the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee has made an addition to the charter. The addition states that:

Members may be removed for malfeasance in office. A member of the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee may be removed from office by the local Planning Commission without limitation in the event that the committee member is absent from any three consecutive meetings of the committee, or is absent from any hour meetings of the committee within any 12 month period. In either such event, a successor shall be appointed by the committee for the unexpired portion of the term of the member who has been removed.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion to add changes to the Route 29 Business Beautification Committee charter as submitted.

Motion made by: Thompson

Second: Martineau

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

B. Route 29 Business Beautification Corridor Member Discussion

Planning Commission member Beverly Jones was conferenced in by phone.

A closed session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to evaluate the performance of a committee member.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion moved that the Amherst County Planning Commission convene in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to evaluate the performance of a committee member.

Motion made by: Jones

Second: Foor

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

The Planning Commission went into closed session at 7:05 pm.

The Planning Commission came out of closed session at 7:25 pm.

5. Comprehensive Plan

A. Attached Documents

Mr. Creasy gave a brief description as to why the 2020 population was down by an estimated 1,000. Mr. Creasy stated that there was a clear explanation due to the closing of Central Virginia Training, which employed many residents of Amherst County. Also, Mr. Creasy stated

that Sweet Briar College had a decrease in students and employees which also contributed to the decrease in population for the County. Mr. Creasy informed the Planning Commission that he would provide an updated Comprehensive Plan by the next Planning Commission Meeting.

6. Proposed Code Changes

A. Recreational Vehicle Code Modification - A-1 Agricultural Residential District

Mr. Creasy briefly explained that the County's current code only allows someone to stay in a camper for up to 30 consecutive days and no longer. However, a lot of times applicants wish to stay in a recreational vehicle upon completion of their single-family dwelling. Mr. Creasy stated that in order to combat this hardship and to be in align with surrounding counties, staff recommends a code change to Section 702, Agricultural Residential District A-1, to allow camping for up to 6 consecutive months so long as there is an active building permit for a single-family dwelling.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion to approve code change to Section 702 in the Agricultural Residential District.

Motion made by: Foor

Second: Gamble

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

B. Sale of Self-Storage Containers/Accessory Structures

Mr. Creasy read the following memo: The Amherst County Route 29 Business Beautification Committee has been working effortlessly to try and beautify the county's corridor. Through discussion and surveys with the public, we have come to understand the positive effects of landscaping and screening on our corridor. Currently, under section 707.02.80, the sale of self-storage containers/accessory structures is a permitted use in the B-2, General Commercial district. This use, typically does not require any permanent structures to be placed on-site. Therefore, landscaping of the lot is not required. In order to further the mission of the Route 29 Business Beautification committee, staff recommends keeping the sale of self-storage containers/accessory structures a permitted use but require all landscaping requirements in section 1605 be met.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion to approve code change to Section 707 General Commercial District.

Motion made by: Gamble

Second: Thompson

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

7. Old/New Business

There was a brief discussion about the Board of Supervisors funding for the Master Plan for Madison Heights and the Board of Supervisors interviewing consultants.

The Planning Commission briefly discussed Roses and when it would be considered for the ballot in November and what would the Planning Commission need to consider, would a change be necessary in Ordinance and add as special exception to consider distance from schools and churches. Mr. J. Bryant stated he would need to refer to the County Attorney for legal advice.

Mr. Creasy gave the Planning Commission an update on Site Plans.

8. Site Plan Update

A. Attached Documents

9. Interviews with Youth Participates

A. Fatima Errami

The Planning Commission interviewed Fatima Errami for the Youth Participant seat on the Planning Commission.

B. Emma McPhatter

The Planning Commission conferenced Emma McPhatter into the meeting by phone and interviewed her for the Youth Participant seat on the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion to accept Fatima Erammi and Emma McPhatter as the new Youth Participants on the Planning Commission for this year.

Motion made by: Thompson

Second: Foor

Motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

10. Adjournment

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Motion: Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by: Gamble

Second: Foor

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Michael B. D.
9/16/2021

